We claim:

1. A hunting ladder for attachment to a tree or pole, comprising:

a plurality of ladder sections that can be assembled together to form a rigid structure, including side rails and rungs extending between the side rails, the side rails comprising elongate structural beams;

external side bolsters adapted to be mounted to the outside of adjacent ladder sections to couple the ladder sections together, the external side bolsters being shaped to match and closely abut the structural beams; and

fasteners extendable through the side bolsters and the structural beams to allow the adjacent ladder sections to be coupled together and uncoupled, as desired.

2. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a seat attached to an upper portion of the ladder without requiring attachment of the seat to the tree or pole.

3. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the plurality of ladder sections comprises three ladder sections.

4. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external side bolsters are permanently or semi-permanently mounted to one ladder section and can be removably mounted to an adjacent ladder section.

5. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the structural beams and the external side bolsters have shapes that mate together.

6. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the structural beams and the external side bolsters are not flat.

7. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the adjacent ladder sections can be coupled together without tools.

8. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the fasteners comprise threaded hand knobs.

9. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external side bolsters are removably attached to each of the adjacent ladder sections.

10. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the rungs have a top surface which is oriented at an acute angle relative to the side rails.

11. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the side rails comprise extruded aluminum and the rungs comprise extruded aluminum, with ridges formed in a top portion of the rungs for minimizing foot slippage.

12. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the structural beams comprise double box I-beams having two box sections and a web extending therebetween.

13. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the side bolsters closely overlay the double box I-beams, including the web and the two box sections.

14. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the side bolsters wrap around distal edges of the box sections.

15. A hunting ladder as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the structural beams and the side bolsters mate together with a precision fit.

16. A modular hunting ladder for attachment to a tree or pole, comprising:

at least two ladder sections that can be connected together to form a rigid structure, each including two generally parallel side rails and rungs extending between the side rails; and

a seat attached only to the first ladder section.

17. The ladder of Claim 16, and further comprising a platform secured to the first ladder section for attachment to the tree or pole.

18. The ladder of Claim 17, wherein the platform attaches to the first ladder section at point between the seat and a first rung of the first ladder section.

19. The ladder of Claim 16, wherein the side rails and the rungs comprise extruded aluminum.

20. The ladder of Claim 16, wherein the ladder sections are connected together with a pair of external side bolsters and fasteners for attaching the side bolsters.

21. The ladder of Claim 20, wherein the external side bolsters are removably secured to each of the ladder sections.

22. The ladder of Claim 16, and further comprising a frame assembly attached to the proximal end of the first ladder section, wherein the seat suspends from the frame assembly.